



Town of North Andover Quarterly Newsletter

JANUARY 2011 - Issue 18

News from the School Department

Technology Initiatives Update

The Capital Improvement Program funds approved by voters last spring have allowed us, together with the town's municipal departments, to purchase and install network communication equipment. This equipment is designed to resolve the communication issues that have frustrated the faculty in the use of technology in the classroom. Students and teachers will be able to share electronic files and communicate reliably. In addition, over the next three months, our current seven independent school Internet connections will be consolidated under one provider and one service.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) have allowed us to implement a number of initiatives that will directly affect students and student achievement. These funds must be used now and must be devoted to one-time infrastructure enhancements. SFSF purchases include:

- Computer labs for our elementary schools which have not had computer upgrades recently.
- Pilot Project called Active Classroom. In this technology, teachers present lessons and then create electronic assessments for the class. Students record answers on a device called an Active Slate and vote their answers on a device called ActiVote. ActiVote offers teachers and students a friendly Learner Response System that makes sure every voice counts. ActiVote ensures 100% class participation.
- Successmaker web-based assessment software is now available in three learning centers at the middle school and will be available at our elementary schools. Special Education teachers are currently being trained so that students will have time to practice their skills and get im-

mediate feedback as they prepare for the MCAS tests in March and May.

- Listening stations for use in language lessons at elementary schools. All elementary schools in grades K-2 and 11 SpEd teachers at the elementary level will be using the stations.
- The Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Libraries, chaired by Ann Bate, our Middle School librarian, and Mary Rose Quinn, our town's library director, will be submitting its recommendation for the integrated inventory and circulation software. Library searches will be available from classrooms anywhere in district and links will be added to search external catalogs such as those in the Stevens Library.
- Adaptive technology devices, including iPads and iPods, have been purchased for Special Education such as the classes at the Franklin Elementary School. These students benefit from the technology that allows enhanced language development activities.

In addition, with a grant through Cisco and Tandberg, our consolidated IT Director Matt Killen has been able to acquire for free \$32,000 worth of conferencing equipment. The IT Department has installed two 42" video conferencing systems, one at the middle school and one at the Police station. Training for these systems is being scheduled soon. The videoconferencing systems can be used for virtual student field trips, such as visiting a museum in another city or country, or sharing learning experiences with other classes of students in a distant state or country, or for staff development and for training and online teacher education.

News from the Division of Public Works and Community Development

North Andover High School Photo Voltaic Green Energy Project

The Town of North Andover through the work of Community Development, the Sustainability Committee, School Department, and Public Works received ARRA funding through the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for a solar panel project on the NA High School. This is a relatively small demonstration project that can be added to in the future to provide green energy to the electrical grid and provide some reduction in energy costs at the High School. For now it will be used by the School as a learning tool through an education module provided as part of the project. In addition, a LED monitor will be installed in a public area of the building showing real time power produced from the panels.

The work was competitively bid and a North Andover company, NEXAMP, was the low bidder at \$103,000. The work is completely funded under the above mentioned grant. The project was built this fall and once all the approvals through National Grid and the DOER are received in November the sys-

tem will be operational. Eighty four photo voltaic modules or solar panels are located on the Art Building roof. Using the latest technology no penetrations were made in the roof. These panels will receive the energy from the sun and a unit known as an Inverter will convert the energy to electrical power. The system is capable of producing approximately 18 kilowatts of electricity.

The company that installed the system and the company that manufactures the electrical components are owned and operated by North Andover residents.



News from the Police Department

The Police Department moved their Headquarters from Main Street to 1475 Osgood Street on November 22, 2010. After many weeks of intense work by Verizon, Motorola, the Town IT group and various other technicians we were able to test and run a dual operation at both locations for most of the day and officially switched over to the new facility at about 7 PM and put out the lights and locked the door at 566 Main Street after 42 years. We are very thankful to all who made

this possible and the overwhelming support from the community. We will be holding an open house in May 2011 during Police Week. The dates and times will be published in local papers and on our website.

Please be reminded that the winter parking ban remains in effect through March 30, 2011. For a list of exempt streets please see the full text under News & Announcements on the Town website; www.townofnorthandover.com

News from the Town Clerk's Office

2011 Annual Town Census—It is that time of year again when the 2011 Annual Town Census forms will be mailed to you. It is important and required by Massachusetts General Law to complete and return. The annual census is used by Public Safety officials, for voting purposes, and our school department to project school enrollment. We can only provide proof of residency if you respond to the census. If family members have moved please indicate it on the form. A registered voter must sign to be removed from the voter list. Any information regarding anyone under age 17 is not a public record. If you include a phone number that is also not made public. We appreciate you returning the form as we are required to send second mailings and also voter confirmation notices. Your residency is not tied to tax records or post office records. Please call us at (978)688-9502 at any time if you have questions.

2011 Dog License Renewals—2011 Dog License renewals

will be sent out in January. Any dog six months or older is required to be licensed under Massachusetts General Law. No license is issued unless valid proof of rabies is on file. We will be mailing license renewals and once payment is received, we will mail the license to you. Please inform us if you no longer have your pet or if you need additional licenses. Public health and safety depends on monitoring proper licensing and ensuring that all dogs are licensed. Our website has a blank license form that can be filled out and mailed to us with a check and we will send it out to you.

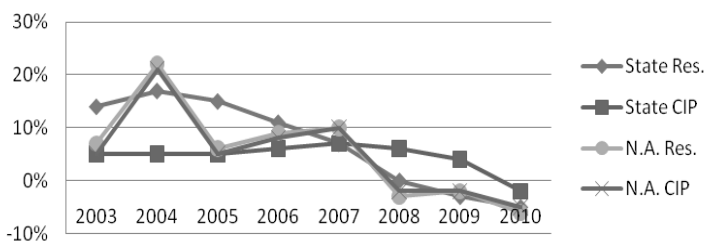
2011 Massachusetts Hunting and Fishing Licenses—Because of regulatory changes we are no longer able to directly sell fishing and hunting licenses. You can obtain your license by going to www.mass.gov/masswildlife. You may contact us for information as to where you may be able to obtain licenses in person.

News from the Town Manager's Office

Property Values; 2002 to 2010

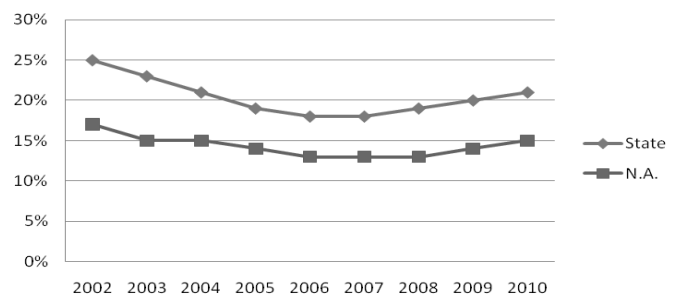
In order to fairly assess property taxes, the Board of Assessors is required by law to revalue all real and personal property every three years and to provide interim valuations annually. An analysis of North Andover property values since 2002 shows that overall value for both residential property and commercial, industrial and personal property (CIP) has roughly matched changes in values for all property in the Commonwealth. As shown on the graph below, during the early part of this decade, property values both in North Andover and state-wide saw significant increases in value, while in the latter years property values have declined as a result of the recession. Even with the decline in property values starting in 2008, residential property in North Andover has increased in value by 43% since 2002, from \$2.5 billion to \$3.7% billion.

Changes in Property Values, 2002 to 2010



Another interesting data comparison is the ratio of CIP values to residential values both for North Andover and in Massachusetts. In this comparison one can see that CIP values relative to residential values decreased from 2002 to 2006, but as residential values began declining in 2007 at a greater pace than CIP values, that ratio began to reverse itself.

Ratio of CIP to Residential Values



Source of DATA: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue and North Andover Board of Assessors